

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank Examiner Saether for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on September 7, 2006. The following remarks record the substance of the interview.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the feature of claim 3 reciting the first elastic body located inside of the spring. The first elastic body biases an inner surface of the spring radially outward.

During the interview, Applicants provided a sample of the invention showing the device with and without the first elastic body inside of the spring. The use of the elastic body advantageously sets the spring in an accurate position in order to maintain an equal radial amount of spacing of its outer periphery portion, as discussed in the specification (see, for example, paragraphs 42, 14 and 15).

In the Office Action, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3 were rejected as being obvious over KUTZ (US 5,749,690). As discussed during the interview, however, KUTZ does not provide any first elastic body to obtain the advantageous effects of Applicants' invention. As such, Applicants submit amended claim 3 is patentable over the KUTZ reference and is not merely a duplication of parts.

Accordingly, Applicants submit claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.


Further, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 4, as well as claim 1, to address the indefiniteness rejection set forth in the Office Action. Hence, all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1, 2 and 4, are now submitted to be in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101893.56478US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:pct